

Independent Reading Assignment
Annotations 2008-09
6th Grade Language Arts

1. Assignment Summary

Over the next year you will be required to read 3 books (one book each nine weeks - beginning with the 2nd grading period). You will be allowed to select the book you wish to read from a variety of genres. The teacher must approve all books. It is expected that you will select quality literature.

After reading a book you will write an annotation or brief account of the book. ANNOTATIONS MUST BE WRITTEN IN PARAGRAPH FORM. In addition to an examination of the book, you must include your reaction to the book and a rating based on a scale you design. LOOK AT THE RUBRIC TO SEE WHAT IS REQUIRED BEFORE STARTING THE ANNOTATION.

You must follow the layout and format for your annotation as indicated below. Your annotations will be kept together in a folder for the entire year. Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are required.

2. Layout of Annotations Folder

1. Materials/Style: You will need a duo-tang folder, labeled with your name and class period. Annotations may be written neatly in blue or black ink or prepared on a computer.
2. They should not exceed two typed single spaced or four one-sided handwritten pages.
3. Page 1 - Title Page - This must include your name, class and period. Design this page to include all due dates and a space for the teacher to record your grade and a comment for each set of annotations.
4. Page 2 - This page
5. Page 3 - Reading Plan: In pencil list the book you intend to read the second nine weeks, the author and the genre. These books must be approved before beginning your outside reading. You may only change titles with approval.
6. Page 4 - Rating Scale: You will design your own rating scale. It will be used throughout the year to evaluate your books. Be Creative.
7. Pages 5 - Final copies of your annotations

3. Format of Annotations

Each annotation must include the following information:

Title of the book

Author
Publisher
Publication date
Number of pages
Genre
Dates you began and finished the book

The annotation will communicate the following information:

The Characters

Give a detailed description of the main characters. Who are they? How do they act? Why do they behave the way they do?

The Setting

Describe the setting. How does the setting of the book add to the story? What effect does the setting have on the characters, the plot?

Conflict

What is the main conflict of the novel? What kinds of problems does it create?

Plot (Don't tell me the entire story and everything that ever happened in the book – analyze it!)

Rising Action – Explain the events that lead up to the climax (turning point of the book).

Climax – What do you feel if the turning point of the novel. Defend your position.

Falling Action – Explain the events that lead to the novel's conclusion.

Resolution or Conclusion – How does the novel end. Note any differences in the characters. What has changed? What impact has this journey had on them?

Theme/Message:

What is the message or moral of the story? What was the author trying to tell us?

Reaction

Why would you (or why would you not) recommend this book to a friend? Why did (or didn't) the book meet your expectations?

Extra Credit

Give examples of how the author used figurative language, imagery, metaphors, similes, personification and irony in the story.

4. Grading

Each annotation is worth 40 points

5. Due Dates

Second nine weeks due the week of December 8th through the 12th

Third nine weeks due on Monday, March 2th

Fourth nine weeks due on Monday, May 18th